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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/770,139	02/02/2004	John P. Downs	5398-CIP-CON-3	9662
22922	7590	09/16/2004	EXAMINER	
REINHART BOERNER VAN DEUREN S.C. ATTN: LINDA GABRIEL, DOCKET COORDINATOR 1000 NORTH WATER STREET SUITE 2100 MILWAUKEE, WI 53202			AHMAD, NASSER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1772	

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/770,139	DOWNS, JOHN P.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Nasser Ahmad	1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/02/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 14-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Torrey (3741786).

Torrey relates to an adhesive dispensing tape (10) comprising a flexible carrier tape (12), a row of adhesive segments (14) spaced apart along the longitudinal length of the tape, each segments being disposed between the two side edges, and can be transferred by flexing the tape. The adhesive is pressure sensitive adhesive (col. 3, line 30). The carrier tape is provided with first and second release surfaces such that the adhesive segments adhere less strongly to the second release surface when unwound from a roll (col. 2, lines 8-12 and col. 3, lines 5-12). The adhesive segments are centered along the transverse width of the tape to form a longitudinally straight line and a single row as shown in figure-4. The segments can be of any shape such as dots, bars, star, triangle, etc. without any criticality (col. 3, lines 57-68). The dot shape would exhibit circular configuration.

The intended use phrases such as “whereby”, may be transversely flexed”, etc. have not been given any patentable weight because said phrases are not found to be of positive limitations.

3. Claims 1-2, 4-10, 12 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aurichio (4961804).

Aurichio relates to an adhesive dispensing tape (11) comprising a flexible carrier tape (12) provided with a release layer thereon, and a row of disc-shaped adhesive segments (14) spaced apart along the longitudinal length of the tape. The adhesive can be covered with a second release liner (abstract). The discs are centered and in single row. The disc have a particular diameter and are spaced apart by a distance.

The intended use phrases have not been given any patentable weight s discussed hereinabove.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Torrey.

Torrey, as discussed above, fails to teach expressly that the segments are disc shaped. However, Torrey clearly discusses that the shape of the adhesive segments are not critical and it can have any desired shape. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Torrey by providing its adhesive segments in a

disc shape, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the shape of a component. A change in shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Dailey*, 149 USPQ47 (CCPA 1976).

6. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aurichio in view of Torrey.

Aurichio, as discussed above, fails to teach that the carrier is a double-sided release layer. Torrey, also discussed above, teaches that the use of double-sided release layer or a single-sided release layer with a second release layer located over the adhesive segments are deemed to be functional equivalent because the adhesive surfaces are protected in both instances. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Aurichio' s carrier with double-sided release coat, instead of the second covering release layer, since the use of the double-sided release layer and the single-sided release layer with a second covering release layer are found to be functionally equivalent.

As for the plurality of adjoining segments of the tape, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Torrey or Aurichio by providing a plurality of adjoining segments by cutting a wider carrier tape into longitudinal segments for manufacturing economics, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a devise involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

Double Patenting

7. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

8. Claims 1-22 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,935,670. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both the instant application and the Patent'670 are directed to an adhesive dispensing tape having the same structure. However, the Patent'670 claims only a single row of the adhesive segments.

9. Claims 1-22 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,686,016. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both the instant application and the Patent'016 are directed to an adhesive dispensing tape having the same structure. However, Patent'016 also claims only a single row of the adhesive segments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

10. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

11. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

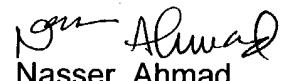
Claims 1 and 13, the phrase "said adhesive disks" are found to be indefinite for lack of antecedent basis.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nasser Ahmad whose telephone number is 571-272-1487. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Nasser Ahmad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1772

N. Ahmad.
September 15, 2004.